

Additional Information

PCT/ISA/210

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The International Search Authority has determined that this international application contains a plurality (groups) of inventions, namely:

1. Claims 1-8, 11-16

Fuel injector having a corrosion-inhibiting coating.

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2. Claims: 9,10

Fuel injector having a valve-closure member, which includes an annular groove with sealing ring in the region of the sealing seat.

The general idea connecting the independent device claims 1 and 9 with one another obviously is to be seen in the features, mentioned in the identical first part of the claim, of a "fuel injector having a valve needle which includes at its discharge-side end a valve-closure member which cooperates with a valve-seat surface formed at a valve-seat member to [form] a sealing seat, and at least one spray-discharge orifice provided downstream from the sealing seat."

However, this shared portion of the independent claims is not novel, as must be proven explicitly.

The remaining features of Claims 1 and 9 relate to two individual measures which act independently of one another [and] between which no reciprocal action can be discerned:

- Coating at least a portion of the surfaces of the fuel injector that come into contact with water with a corrosion-inhibiting and/or friction-reducing layer; and
- Providing an annular groove and an elastic sealing ring in the region of the sealing seat of the valve-closure member.

The first group of features relates to the coating of certain surfaces of the fuel injector to improve the corrosion stability or sliding ability, whereas the second group of features improves the sealing of the fuel injector. These different structural features thus have quite different effects by which the quite different objectives are to be achieved.

As a result, "according to Article 34(3)a) PCT, the present application suffers from a lack of unity (cf. Guidelines for the preliminary examination Section III, 7.6)